

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 7, 2003
3:30 p.m.**

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Atkinson

B. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Leon G. Atkinson	Present
Commissioner Stephanie Lavino	Absent
Commissioner Irving S. Ellsworth Vice-Mayor	Present
Commissioner Mary Maloof	Present
Commissioner Barbara Blush	Present

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS & PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Ken Brown stated that Mr. Harry Black and he are planning a party to thank Mayor Leon Atkinson and Commissioner Stephanie Lavino for their service on the Commission. Mr. Brown said that the party would take place from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 26th at Gators. He said the party will include a pig roast and beer, wine and soft drinks will be served. Mr. Brown stated that he wanted to thank the current Commission for their service and a job well done on behalf of Treasure Island residents.

1. Proclamation for Ladies Golf League –

Mayor Atkinson presented a proclamation declaring that April 8, 2003 be known as Treasure Island Ladies Golf League Day throughout Treasure Island to Ms. Deby Lamont.

2. Mayor's Cleat for Tommy Blush -

Mayor Atkinson presented the mayor's cleat to Tommy Blush and recognized his efforts in saving a wounded bird on Sunset Beach.

3. Other Public Comments –

None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 25th as written. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Resolution – Acknowledging the U.S. Military –

Upon hearing the reading of this resolution acknowledging the dedication and perseverance of the U.S. Military in their efforts to preserve the American way of life, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Maloof to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

2. Resolution – Designating Alternate Poll Workers –

Upon hearing the reading of this resolution appointing individuals to serve as alternates of the Election Board for the April 8, 2003 Runoff Election, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

3. Resolution – Re: Countywide “Challenge” Recreation Program –

Upon hearing the reading of this resolution recognizing the importance of recreational opportunities for physically and mentally challenged persons in the community and supporting the creation of a countywide “Challenge” Recreation Program; directing the City Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

4. Resolution – Designating an Employee benefits Consultant –

Upon hearing the reading of this resolution awarding a contract to the Gehring Group to serve as the City of Treasure Island’s Employee Benefits Consultant and Agent of Records, motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Maloof to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

5. Resolution – Purchase of Playground Equipment for Treasure Bay –

Upon hearing the reading of this resolution authorizing the purchase of playground equipment for the play area at Treasure Bay from Landscape Structures in the amount of \$20,021.71, motion was made by Commissioner Maloof and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

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6. Resolution – Supporting a Proposed Seabird Rehabilitation Facility –

Upon hearing the reading of this resolution supporting an education and rehabilitation center project as proposed by Save Our Seabirds, Inc., motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Blush asked if the City would be committing any funds to this project.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the City is conceptually supporting the efforts of Ms. Lee Fox and Save Our Seabirds, Inc. to gain approval for the seabird rehabilitation facility project at Fort DeSoto Park and that no City funds are being committed.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

7. Motion - Accepting a Donation from Caddy's Waterfront Café –

Motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to accept the generous donation of \$1,000 from Tony Amico and Caddy's Waterfront Café for use at the Sunset Vista Trailhead Park (SVTP). Upon roll call, the vote to accept the donation was unanimous.

F. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS & COMMENTS:

Mr. Chuck Coward, The City Manager, stated that the current Commission would need to attend the Commission Meeting on April 15th to wrap up any unfinished business and to approve two sets of minutes.

The City Manager reported that the City Hall's Newsletter had been delivered to the residents in Treasure Island.

The City Manager reported that the bridge construction has begun and he stated that the permanent detours should be in place the week of April 7, 2003. The City Manager said that the barges should be arriving soon.

Mr. Jim Denhardt, City Attorney, reported on the litigation Commissioner Blush initiated regarding the validity of the petition to recall her. He stated that Judge Penick "quashed" the petition to recall Commissioner Blush and Attorney Denhardt said that Judge Penick used words like "anarchy" and "ludicrous" to describe the recall petition. Attorney Denhardt further stated that Judge Penick has reserved jurisdiction for Commissioner Blush to recover attorney fees from

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the City and Mrs. Boren to award the amount necessary to reimburse Commissioner Blush for her attorney's fees.

G. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Blush stated that her confidence was confirmed by Judge Penick's ruling. She said that she and her husband have taught their kids to stand up for what is right and it is for that reason that she decided to bring the appeal to court. Commissioner Blush stated that "a person's true character is revealed when confronted with adversity" and she hopes we can all learn from this. She said that the City has so much to accomplish right now and that the recall has caused a major disruption to the City's business. Commissioner Blush also stated that she looks forward to continuing to serve as Commissioner without disruption and getting back to healing the wounds of the City.

Mayor Atkinson stated that although the recall specifically named Commissioner Blush he felt that it also was against Commissioner Ellsworth and himself. He said that he was thrilled by Judge Penick's ruling on the recall petition.

Commissioner Blush commented that on Wednesday, April 9th there would be a Beach Stewardship Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on wildlife.

Commissioner Maloof urged everyone to get out and vote on Tuesday, April 8th.

Commissioner Maloof commented that the Paradise Island Civic Association's flag is flying on Paradise Island.

Commissioner Maloof stated that the slab couldn't be removed at Paradise Island Towers because there is another slab underneath it. She said that the new recycling center looks great.

Commissioner Maloof asked the City Manager for a status on the "bubble" in the road around the clock tower at 107th Avenue.

The City Manager stated that the purpose of the clock tower and the "bubble" in the road around the clock tower is to unite the independent areas on 108th Avenue. He said it also provides for pedestrian safety when crossing. The City Manager stated that \$25,000 has been budgeted to widen the corners of the "bubble" and Mr. Jerry Dabkowski was hired to look into the "bubble" specifically as part of the Downtown Master Plan. The City Manager said that there is a "catch 22" that exists due to the traffic calming wanted by businesses and the residents who use the causeway strictly to get to and from work. He stated that

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his primary focus would be on options to deal with the "catch 22" and that he would provide the Commission with the options in the near future.

Commissioner Maloof reported that Ms. Jan Burlew has opened a walk-in center for cancer patients. She said that the center is located on Pasadena Avenue in the Publix plaza and it is open from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Commissioner Maloof said the center provides cancer patients with art, music, books, and other activities free of charge. She stated that the Sembler Corporation donated the space for the center to Ms. Burlew.

Mayor Atkinson commented that as a cancer survivor himself he really appreciated that a walk-in center like this is available to cancer patients.

Commissioner Ellsworth made reference to comments that were made at the previous week's mayoral debate. He stated that he was not sure what committee advised Mary not to vote on the LDR's but that he made several calls to the State Ethics Commission and could not get a straight answer as to whether voting on the LDR's would be ethical or not.

Commissioner Maloof stated that she was advised on voting on the LDR's by the Florida Institute of Government at South Florida University.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he was offended by comments made by mayoral candidate George Makrauer during the Runoff Debate regarding impropriety by members of the Commission deciding to back one candidate over another. Commissioner Ellsworth said that the statement was appalling and that he took it as a direct insult to his integrity.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that Senator Dennis Jones assured him that the City of Treasure Island would receive funds this year for the Causeway Bridge Replacement Project. He said that the money that is appropriated will be available for long-term and will be reviewed each year. Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he met with Representative John Carrassas and that Representative Carrassas is also willing to help the City get funding for the bridge. He also said that he met with Representative Leslie Waters' Aide and was assured that Ms. Waters is also in support of the bridge replacement project.

Commissioner Ellsworth reported that the Bill to protect \$30,000,000 designated for the Beach Erosion Control Trust Fund passed unanimously through the committee it originated in and should pass in both the House and Senate.

Mayor Atkinson thanked Commissioner Ellsworth for going to the Legislature on behalf of the City. He stated that the City has been working on the Causeway

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Bridge Replacement Project for 5 years and campaigning for funds the last 2 years. He said that the groundwork has been laid at both the state and federal levels so that the City can go back each year to lobby for funds.

Mayor Atkinson acknowledged that Commissioner Blush's mother was in attendance.

Mayor Atkinson suggested that the new Commission consider installing parking meters at the County-owned park. He said that other cities have made a deal with the County in which the income from the parking meters is split 60% for the City and 40% for the County and the County still maintains the park. Mayor Atkinson stated that residents could pay \$5 for a parking pass if they did not want to have to pay the meter for parking. He felt that having parking meters at the County Park would be a "win/win" situation for the City.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

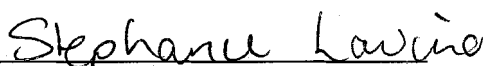
Mayor Atkinson read an e-mail from Mr. Makrauer in which (according to Mayor Atkinson) Mr. Makrauer called him a "blank bastard". Mayor Atkinson stated that he would not support Mr. Makrauer due to this statement and that he would be proud to hand the gavel over to Mary Maloof.

Mayor Atkinson read an e-mail from Mr. Chuck MacIntyre that called for the Mayor to leave the City of Treasure Island. Mayor Atkinson stated that he does plan to leave the City to move to "the river". He said that he only intended to serve 1 term and as it turned out he was re-elected 3 times for a total of 9 years serving this Commission. Mayor Atkinson stated that he decided not to run for re-election in April, 2000 and wrote a letter that he e-mailed to Ms. Bonnie Williams that confirmed this decision. He said that during the issues with the LDR's he almost decided to run for re-election.

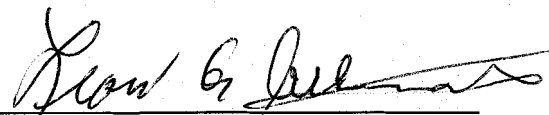
Mayor Atkinson read an e-mail from a neighbor of Chuck MacIntyre that praised Mayor Atkinson for his achievements while serving on the Commission. The neighbor of Mr. MacIntyre stated that Mayor Atkinson took a sleepy little town and made it a vibrant, trendsetting community while always taking the time to answer questions promptly.

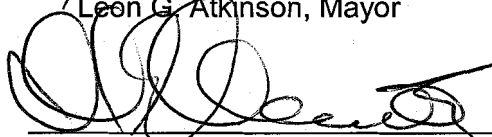
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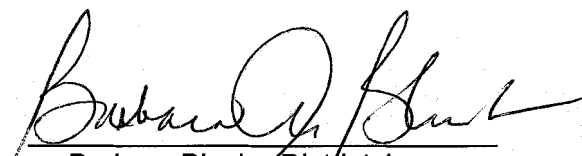
I. ADJOURNMENT:


Stephanie Lavino - District 1

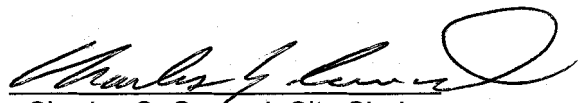

Mary Maloof - District 3


Leon G. Atkinson, Mayor


Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2


Barbara Blush - District 4

ATTEST:


Charles S. Coward, City Clerk